

Application Serial No: 10/518,225
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: September 11, 2008

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 11, 2008. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 22 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claims 2 and 3. Claim 4 is amended into independent form and includes the features of claims 1 and 5. Claim 7 is amended to include the features of claims 8 and 9. Claim 10 is amended into independent form including the features of claims 7 and 11. Claim 22 is amended and includes the features of claims 2 and 3. Claim 23 is new and includes the features of claim 22, 3 and 4. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12-23 are pending.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 10 are rejected as being unpatentable over Taguchi (US Patent No. 6,399,247).

With respect to claim 1, this rejection is now moot as claim 1 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 3. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowable. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

With respect to claim 4, this rejection is now moot as claim 4 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 5. Accordingly, claim 4 should be allowable. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

With respect to claim 7, this rejection is now moot as claim 7 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 9. Accordingly, claim 7 should be allowable. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

With respect to claim 10, this rejection is now moot as claim 10 is amended into independent form and includes the features of allowable claim 11. Accordingly, claim 10 should be allowable. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 22 is rejected as being unpatentable over Shibuya (US Patent No. 5,481,128). This rejection is now moot as claim 22 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 3. Accordingly, claim 22 should be allowable. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

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Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12-23 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, James A. Larson (Reg. No. 40,443), at (612) 455-3805.



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Respectfully submitted,

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